I from the orient to the drooping west[4],
Making the wind my post-horse, still unfold
The acts commenced on this ball of earth:
Upon my tongues continual slanders ride;
The which in every language I pronounce,
Stuffing the ears of men with false reports.
I speak of peace, while covert enmity,
Under the smile of safety, wounds the world:
And who but Rumour, who but only I,
Make fearful musters, and prepared defence;
Whilst the big year, swoln with some other grief,
Is thought with child by the stern tyrant war,
And no such matter? Rumour is a pipe[5]
Blown by surmises, jealousies, conjectures;

Rumour is likewise a character in Sir Clyomon, Knight of th Golden Shield, &c. 1599.

So also, in The whole magnificent Entertainment given to King James, and the Queen his Wife, &c. &c. 15th March, 1603, by Thomas Decker, 4to. 1604: "Directly under her in a cart b "herselfe, *Fame* stood upright: a woman in a watchet roabe thickly set with *open eyes* and *tongues*, a payre of large golde winges at her backe, a trumpet in her hand, a mantle of sundr cullours traversing her body: all these ensignes displaying bu the properties of her swiftnesse and aptnesse to disperse *Rumoure*."

STEEVENS.

**.—painted full of tongues." This direction, which is only t be found in the first edition in quarto of 1600, explains a passag In what follows, otherwise obscure. POPE.

4 — the DROOPING west.] A passage in Macbeth will bes (explain the force of this epithet:

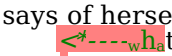
*' Good things of day begin to *droop* and drowse,
** And night's black agents to their preys do rouse."

MALONE.

s RUMOUR is a pipe—] Here the poet imagines himse describing *Rumour*, and forgets that *Rumour* is the speaker.

JOHNSON.

Surely this is a mistake. *Rumour* is giving her own descriptor

tut says of herself:

t need I thus
" My well known body to anatomize
Among my household ? "
And then proceeds to tell *why* she was come.
Bos WELL,